United Nations

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W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council votes unanimously to establish, under its authority, United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), immediately after signing of agreements for comprehensive political settlement; calls on all Cambodian parties to cooperate fully with UNAMIC.

- Secretary-General expresses deep concern over reports of unauthorized Cambodian repatriation plan.

- Secretary-General denies categorically Iraqi allegations that Israel uses United Nations helicopters "as a sort of shield" to fly over Iraqi territory.

- General Assembly elects five non-permanent members of Security Council; acts on Comorian Island of Mayotte; grants observer status to Caribbean Community.

- International Journalists' Round Table on Human Rights and United Nations debate freedom of the press and safety of journalists.

- Iraq-Kuwait Border Commission reports on surveying and mapping of border area between the two countries.

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The Security Council this afternoon voted unanimously to establish, under its authority, a United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) immediately after the signing of the agreements for a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in that country and in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General, with members of the mission to be sent immediately after the signing.

In its resolution, the Council called on the Supreme National Council and the Cambodian parties to cooperate fully with UNAMIC and with the preparations for the implementation of the agreements set out in the agreements for a comprehensive political settlement.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council further welcomed the proposal of the co-chairman of the Paris Conference on Cambodia to reconvene the conference at an early date at ministerial level to sign the agreements. It requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council by 15 November on the implementation of the resolution, and to keep the Council fully informed of further developments.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed deep concern over reports indicating the existence of separate plans for the repatriation of Cambodian displaced persons which are not consistent with the draft agreements reached previously on a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in that country.

The Secretary-General said in a statement made through his Spokesman today that the plans furthermore appeared to be in direct contradiction with the guidelines and principles for repatriation that are an integral part of the draft agreements. The existence of such plans raised a doubt about the commitment of the parties concerned to the draft agreements, scheduled to be signed on 23 October in Paris, he said.

He appealed to Prince Norodom Sihanouk in his capacity as President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia to urge the parties concerned not to implement any unauthorized plans for the repatriation of Cambodian displaced persons, and to secure the commitment of the parties concerned not to organize any repatriation outside the framework of the draft agreements. Those agreements represented the culmination of a long effort at bringing about a peaceful settlement of this "difficult conflict". He urged all parties to fully respect its provisions in the letter and the spirit.

The Secretary-General has designated the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as lead Agency to carry out the repatriation.

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The Secretary-General has categorically denied the allegation made by Iraq that Israel was allowing its air planes to use United Nations helicopters as "a sort of shield" to fly over Iraqi territory. In a brief comment to correspondents this morning upon entering the building, he called the allegation "totally false and unjustified".

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was scheduled to meet later today with the Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus.

Commenting on the hostage situation in Lebanon, the Secretary-General said that "things are moving ahead". When asked about reports indicating that the groups holding the hostages had asked for guarantees, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar replied that the matter was extremely sensitive and that he preferred to refrain from any comment that could spoil the chances of getting "good results".

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The General Assembly this morning elected Cape Verde, Morocco, Japan, Hungary and Venezuela as five non-permanent members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 1992. The five countries, elected by secret ballot, will replace Côte D'Ivoire, Cuba, Romania, Yemen and Zaire whose terms expire on 31 December this year.

In another action, the Assembly reaffirmed the sovereignty of Comoros over the island of Mayotte and urged France to accelerate negotiations to return Mayotte to Comoros. The resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 115 in favour, to 1 against (France) with 34 abstentions.

Addressing the Assembly before the vote on the sovereignty of Comoros, the representative of Gabon regretted that the problem had not yet been resolved despite numerous resolutions of the Assembly. In its capacity as President of the Ad Hoc Committee, he said, Gabon was appealing to the French Government to speed up negotiations with the Comorian Government for the return of Mayotte to Comoros.

Also this morning, acting without a vote on a resolution introduced by the representative of Barbados, the Assembly granted observer status to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The President of the Assembly, Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, announced that the item on the United States economic embargo of Cuba would be taken up by the Assembly on Monday, 4 November.

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Fourteen journalists had been killed in Yugoslavia since June, the highest death rate for journalists in the line of duty since 1981, according to Anne Nelson, Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Speaking to panelists in the International Journalists' Round Table on Human Rights and the United Nations, who were debating the freedom of the press and safety of journalists this morning, Ms. Nelson said that despite changes in the world, the nature of abuse against journalists had not changed. She called the situation in Yugoslavia "the great untold story of the year" and cited incidents where journalists had been victims of the resurgence in ethnic fighting in that country, including intentional attacks on clearly marked press vehicles and capture by members of the fighting parties in Croatia and Serbia.

Also addressing the panel was Professor Nicholas Daniloff of Northeastern University School of Journalism in Boston, who called for a United Nations sponsored annual review of the safety of journalists around the world. Professor Daniloff also proposed the establishment of a "Register of

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Incidents" at the United Nations. Noting that journalist Terry Anderson was st ill in captivity in Lebanon, he thanked the Secretary-General for his work for the release of all the hostages.

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The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission has reviewed and approved the final work plan for the surveying and mapping of the border area between the two countries.

The first stage of control surveying began on 1 October with the assistance of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). A specially outfitted aircraft for aerial photography has also arrived in Kuwait from Sweden and will shortly commence this stage of the operation. It is expected that the maps for the actual demarcation of the boundary will be ready at the end of February 1992.

The Commission held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 15 October, during which it prepared its first report on its work as well as an estimated budget to be submitted to the Secretary-General.

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